



Virginia  
Regulatory  
Town Hall

## Proposed Regulation Agency Background Document

<b>Agency Name:</b>	Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
<b>VAC Chapter Number:</b>	4 VAC 25-31
<b>Regulation Title:</b>	Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining
<b>Action Title:</b>	Proposed
<b>Date:</b>	December 10, 2001

This information is required pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:9.1 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*), Executive Order Twenty-Five (98), Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style and Procedure Manual*. Please refer to these sources for more information and other materials required to be submitted in the regulatory review package.

### Summary

*Please provide a brief summary of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to an existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed. There is no need to state each provision or amendment or restate the purpose and intent of the regulation; instead give a summary of the regulatory action and alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.*

The Department of Mines Minerals and Energy is proposing to promulgate the Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining to ensure the most beneficial development of mineral resources and to minimize the effect of mining on the environment. This regulation (4 VAC 25-31) will replace the present reclamation regulations, 4 VAC 25-30 Minerals Other Than Coal Surface Mining Regulations.

The revision is necessary because of extensive formatting changes from the present regulatory requirements. The regulation addresses general requirements, permit standards, bonding, and general performance standards for surface mineral mining, and enforcement.

Amendments to the proposed regulation were needed to address industry changes and changes in technology, eliminate duplicative or nonessential requirements, clarify and strengthen current

requirements and establish new requirements. The amended regulation will help to ensure that surface mineral mines are reclaimed in a manner supportive of future use.

### Basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate the regulation. The discussion of this statutory authority should: 1) describe its scope and the extent to which it is mandatory or discretionary; and 2) include a brief statement relating the content of the statutory authority to the specific regulation. In addition, where applicable, please describe the extent to which proposed changes exceed federal minimum requirements. Full citations of legal authority and, if available, web site addresses for locating the text of the cited authority must be provided. Please state that the Office of the Attorney General has certified that the agency has the statutory authority to promulgate the proposed regulation and that it comports with applicable state and/or federal law.*

The DMME derives its authority to promulgate this regulation from Sections 45.1-161.3 and 45.1-180.3 of the Code of Virginia.

Section 45.1-161.3 gives DMME the authority to promulgate regulations necessary or incidental to the performance of duties or execution of powers conferred under Title 45.1 and other relevant chapters, which regulations shall be promulgated by the Department, the Chief, or the Director, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act.

Section 45.1-180.3, Authority of the Director; states that the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions and the policy of the mineral mining reclamation law, Chapter 16 of Title 45.1, and the authority to adopt definitions for use in interpreting this chapter are vested in the Director.

### Purpose

*Please provide a statement explaining the need for the new or amended regulation. This statement must include the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action and detail the specific reasons it is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. A statement of a general nature is not acceptable, particular rationales must be explicitly discussed. Please include a discussion of the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.*

The purpose of the proposed regulation 4 VAC 25-31, Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining is to replace the present regulation 4 VAC 25-30, Minerals Other Than Coal Surface Mining Regulations. The proposed regulation is amended and updated to address general provisions, permitting requirements, permitting renewals and exemptions, mapping, bonding and surety adjustments, roads, operation and reclamation plans, drainage and sediment control, and revegetation.

The goals of the proposed regulation are to provide agency customers with the proper guidance and information that is necessary to operate and reclaim mineral mine sites in a manner that is safe, productive, and beneficial to the public, the environment and for future use.

The Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining, as proposed, have been amended to reflect changes in the Administrative Code. The proposed regulation also defines mineral mining industry terms that are used in the regulation. This helps to clarify proposed regulatory requirements.

The body of the proposed regulation emphasizes aspects of mineral mining reclamation requirements that are necessary to reclaim mineral mine sites. By having permit data and plans and performance criteria meet standards in Chapter 18.1 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia for impoundments, the proposed regulation addresses problems associated with substandard design practices and engineering that may lead to potential impoundment releases or hazards. In addition, the proposed regulation references the Mineral Mining Handbook guidance information that should be used to control sedimentation and drainage at mineral mine sites.

Lastly, the regulation allows the operator flexibility to use acceptable procedures that can be more efficient to the particular design of the mining operation. This will enable more efficient reclamation that will provide for safely mined property that is of beneficial future use to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

## Substance

*Please identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. Please note that a more detailed discussion is required under the statement providing detail of the regulatory action's changes.*

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The Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining 4 VAC 25-31 replace the present regulation 4 VAC 25-30, Minerals Other Than Coal Surface Mining Regulations. Substantive changes to the proposed regulation were updates to address general provisions, permitting requirements, permitting renewals and exemptions, mapping, bonding and surety adjustments. The most substantive changes, though minor, were to roads, operation and reclamation plans, drainage and sediment control, and revegetation and were changes that resulted from updated guidance documents that provide general industry parameters used in mineral mining operations.

Amending the Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining were necessary to address industry changes and changes in technology, eliminate duplicative or nonessential requirements, clarify and strengthen current requirements and establish new requirements. A detail of changes to each individual section is listed in the Detail of Changes.

## Issues

*Please provide a statement identifying the issues associated with the proposed regulatory action. The term "issues" means: 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions; 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please include a sentence to that effect.*

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Through the regulatory process, the DMME has consistently asked for and received input and guidance from public and industry groups as well as agencies that may be affected by the regulation of operations on mineral mine sites. The result of the wide range of feedback was a regulation that provides consistent guidance to all types of mineral mine sites through the Commonwealth. The resulting advantage to the public is mined land that is reclaimed in a manner that is protective of public safety and beneficial to continued economic development.

An advantages to the DMME in a more efficient regulation that provides appropriate guidance for the reclamation of mine lands. This results in mine property that will provide an economic benefit to the Commonwealth.

Finally, the proposed regulation will enhance public health and safety, provide clear guidance for the mineral mining industry, and provide a more efficient regulation of mineral mine sites.

There are no disadvantages to this proposed regulation.

## Fiscal Impact

*Please identify the anticipated fiscal impacts and at a minimum include: (a) the projected cost to the state to implement and enforce the proposed regulation, including (i) fund source / fund detail, (ii) budget activity with a cross-reference to program and subprogram, and (iii) a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures; (b) the projected cost of the regulation on localities; (c) a description of the individuals, businesses or other entities that are likely to be affected by the regulation; (d) the agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected; and e) the projected cost of the regulation for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities.*

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This regulation has been developed with extensive public, industry and government input. The result is a regulation that is more efficient and is expected to enhance the productivity of mineral mine sites and the mineral mining industry.

(a) The projected cost to the state to implement and enforce the proposed regulation:

- (i) Fund Source/Fund Detail: General Fund; 0100: Permit Fees; 0218
- (ii) Budget Activity:
  - Functional Area; (404 and 405) inspection and enforcement; Program/subprogram; Mine inspections, 50602

- Functional Area; (402) law and regulatory compliance; Program/subprogram; Mine inspections, 50602
- (iii) One-time cost vs. on-going expenditures: One time cost to DMM of approximately \$10,000 for printing of final regulation.

(b) The projected cost of the regulation on localities: No cost to localities.

(c) A description of the individuals, businesses or other entities that are likely to be affected by the regulation:

- Mineral Mining Companies
- Public Near Mineral Mines

(d) The agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected:

- 310 Mineral Mining Companies
- 4,000 Mineral Miners
- Numerous Citizens Near the 480 Mines in 92 Counties

(e) The projected cost of the regulation for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities:

Mineral mining companies should encounter no new cost related to the proposed rule. Some cost savings may be realized with the approximately 20 new permit applications filed each year due to clearer presentation of the minimum permit requirements, and the ability of applicants to develop more efficient, economical performance-based plans. Permit application and permit renewal fees should remain constant at about \$200,000 per year. Of the nearly 70,000 acres covered by mine permits, about 30,000 acres are disturbed and subject to reclamation bond. Bond costs are expected to remain without change at \$3.9 million with \$1.3 million in surety bonds, \$0.2 million in cash, and \$2.4 million in the Minerals Reclamation Fund. Minerals Reclamation Fund payments are estimated to be approximately \$0.5 million per year. Additional savings may be realized in reclamation costs due to the performance nature of the proposed rule. Even slight reductions in reclamation costs for the approximately 3,000 acres of land reclaimed by mining companies each year may result in total savings of many thousands of dollars. The agency will develop a non-regulatory assistance manual to help permit applicants obtain permits quicker and more easily, and give suggestions on best practices for on-the-ground compliance. The combination of regulatory simplification and improved technical guidance are expected to result in less cost of the regulation for those affected.

### Detail of Changes

*Please detail any changes, other than strictly editorial changes, that are being proposed. Please detail new substantive provisions, all substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. This statement should provide a section-by-section description - or cross-walk - of changes implemented by the proposed regulatory action. Where applicable, include citations to the specific sections of an existing regulation being amended and explain the consequences of the proposed changes.*

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4 VAC 25-31-10, Definitions, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-10 through 20). The new section eliminates terms defined in the Code of Virginia, Section 45.1-180, clarifies old terms and updates terms to match code changes.

4 VAC 25-31-20, Scope, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-30). The wording was clarified.

4 VAC 25-31-30, Permittee, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-40). This clarifies the purpose of the regulation. It was unnecessary to state why the regulation was promulgated.

4 VAC 25-31-40, Modifications (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-70). No significant changes.

4 VAC 25-31-50, Mineral Mine Operator's Manual, (old Sections 4 VAC 25-30-100 Drainage and Sediment Control Handbook and 4 VAC 25-30-110, Revegetation Guidelines). The requirements for drainage, sediment control, and revegetation that are not covered in the regulation are addressed in the Operator's Manual.

4 VAC 25-31-60, Other governmental agencies and laws, (old Sections 4 VAC 25-30-580 through 590). This updates code changes.

4 VAC 25-31-70, Exemptions, (new section). This section clearly outlines what the regulation does not apply to and what does not constitute mineral mining.

4 VAC 25-31-80, Contiguous Area, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-120). No significant changes.

4 VAC 25-31-90, Operator Conference with the Operator, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-140). Clarified to allow the operator conference prior to approval rather than prior to submittal of the permit application.

4 VAC 25-31-100, Mineral Mining Permits, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-150). Updated to reflect changes in the regulation and code. The regulation now allows permits to be transferred.

4 VAC 25-31-110, Permit Application, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-160). Updated to reflect changes in the regulation and code. The regulation does not require the application to be notarized.

4 VAC 25-31-120, Permit fees and Bonds, (from old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (1)). The section has no significant changes. It has been updated to match the Code of Virginia and the language has been clarified to provide bonding acceptable to the Director needs only to be submitted once the permit application is deemed complete. Bonding requirements were moved to their own section (4 VAC 25-31-220 through 320).

4 VAC 25-31-130, Mineral Mining Plans, (from old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (4)). No significant changes to this section. More detailed requirements for mine plans are outlined in 4 VAC 25-31-330 through 550.

4 VAC 25-31-140, Marking of Permit Boundaries, (new section). This requires the permit boundary to be marked, if natural features are not readily identifiable, when mine activities are within 100 feet of the permit boundary.

4 VAC 25-31-150, Maps, (from old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (4) through (230)). No significant changes.

4 VAC 25-31-160, Legal Right, (old section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (5 and 6)). No significant changes.

4 VAC 25-31-170, Permit Notifications, (old section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (7 and 8)). No significant changes. The section has been amended to clarify notification requirements as well as code changes.

4 VAC 25-31-180, Impoundments, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-470). The proposed section was amended to meet code changes. The section requires a professional engineer to certify construction plans and specifications for impoundments rather than a "qualified" engineer. Specific requirements are outlined for design and construction specifications, examination and monitoring, emergency procedures, and closure and abandonment plans. 4 VAC 25-31-500 includes detailed engineering and safety requirements.

4 VAC 25-31-190, Availability of Permits, (new section). Requires permits and a copy of the permit application to be kept on the mine site.

4 VAC 25-31-200, Exemption of Restricted Mining, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-180). The proposed section was amended to clarify regulatory requirements, i.e. less than a "total" of one acre as opposed to less than one acre disturbed. The amended language removes "restricted" from the description of the mine operator.

4 VAC 25-31-210 A., Annual Renewal, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-250). The language was clarified to state that the annual renewal would occur within 10 days of the renewal date as opposed to 10 days following the renewal date. It also removed the language requiring a renewal progress report and maps to be received by the anniversary date.

4 VAC 25-31-210 B., Annual renewal, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-260). The proposed language was clarified to state that the renewal fee is to be submitted with the permit renewal as opposed to submitting the fee with the progress report.

4 VAC 25-31-210 C., Annual Renewal, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-270). The language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-210 D., Annual Renewal, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-240). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The requirement for a notarized signature was removed.

4 VAC 25-31-210 E., Annual Renewal, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-280), The proposed language was amended for clarity. The 30 day submittal requirement was removed and the section was amended to reference the bonding requirements in Section 4 VAC 25-31-220 through 270.

4 VAC 25-31-220 A through E, Requirements for Bonding of Mineral Mines, (parts of old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170). This requires the bond be submitted once the permit is deemed complete, consistent with 4 VAC 25-31-120. The old language taken from Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 was amended to be consistent with the code. Also, language was added to incorporate the bonding requirements of Chapter 16, Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia.

4 VAC 25-31-230, Period of Liability, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170, (3a)). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-240, Bond Amount, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170, (2a) and (2c)). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-250, General Terms and Conditions of Bond, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170, (2a)). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-260, Form of Performance Bond, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (2b)). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-270, Replacement of Bonds, (new section). This section proposes that the operator may replace a bond with bonds of equal coverage and the division will not release a bond until the replacement bond is found to be an acceptable replacement.

4 VAC 25-31-280, Release of Bond,(new section). The proposed language was amended for clarity and to be consistent with Chapter 16, Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia. The language ensures that the bond is not to be released until mine land reclamation is completed and meets post mine land use requirements.

4 VAC 25-31-290, Intensive Agricultural Use, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-560). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The normal crop yield requirement was amended to equal the five year average of the county rather than the Commonwealth.

4 VAC 25-31-300, Inspections for Adequacy of Vegetation and Bond Release, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-570). The proposed language was amended to clarify post mine land reclamation inspection requirements and to be consistent with Chapter 16, Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia.

4 VAC 25-31-310, Bond Forfeiture, (new section). The proposed language was amended to clarify circumstances where bond forfeitures are applicable (i.e., reclamation, permit non-compliance) and to be consistent with Chapter 16, Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia.

4 VAC 25-31-320, Minerals Reclamation Fund, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-170 (3a)). The proposed language was amended to clarify how the operator pays on estimated acreage when



making the annual payments into the Fund. The section also outlines how payments are returned to the operator as reclamation of the mine land proceeds to completion.

4 VAC 25-31-330, Protected Structures and Sensitive Features, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-210). The proposed language was amended for clarity. This provides additional protection to structures outside of the mine area that may be impacted. The section adds churches to the description of protected structures.

4 VAC 25-31-340, Signs, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-130). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-350, Roads, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-300 B through 350). The section was amended for clarity. It now includes the previous section on Construction Standards.

4 VAC 25-31-360, Operation and Reclamation, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-340). The proposed language was amended to be consistent with the Code of Virginia and for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-370, Slopes, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-350). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-380, Treatment of Acid Material, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-350). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-390, Handling of Spoil piles and Stockpiles of Minerals, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-350). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-400, Overburden, refuse, spoil, and waste fills, (new section). The proposed language incorporates requirements from the Sediment and Drainage Control Handbook, it is consistent with the Code of Virginia, and is written for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-410, Storage of Top soil, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-380). No changes.

4 VAC 25-31-420, Screening, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-390). No significant changes.

4 VAC 25-31-430, Completion of Active Mining, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-400). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The reference to the director was changed to “in accordance with mining plans and proper engineering practices”.

4 VAC 25-31-440, Drainage and Sediment Control, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-410). The proposed language was amended for clarity.

4 VAC 25-31-450, Sediment Basins, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-420). The proposed language was amended for clarity. Substantive changes include a basin size requirement to correlate with the drainage area, required cleaning to prevent uncontrolled release of sediment, and providing for alternative measures of sediment control.

4 VAC 25-31-460, Intermittent or Perennial Streams, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-430 and 440). The proposed language was amended for clarity and to incorporate the use of diversion structures to divert extreme runoff during periods such as heavy storms.

4 VAC 25-31-470, Natural Drainageways, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-450). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The proposed language omits the reference to the drainage handbook.

4 VAC 25-31-480, Diversions, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-430). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The proposed language incorporates the requirement for diversions to be able to handle peak runoff from one or ten year storms.

4 VAC 25-31-490, Water Quality, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-460). No substantive changes.

4 VAC 25-31-500, Water Impoundments, (old Sections 4 VAC 25-30-180, 470, 490, and 500). The proposed language was amended to be consistent with the Chapter 18 and 18.1 of 45.1 of the Code of Virginia and for clarity. The section incorporates Code requirements to conform to proper engineering standards for impoundments and allows flexible use of guidance documents from the Corps of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Interior, the US Department of Commerce and others as approved by the Director.

4 VAC 25-31-510, Alternative Methods of Stabilization, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-510). The proposed language was amended to add the option of the operator to use gabions, shotcrete and concrete in addition to riprap.

4 VAC 25-31-520, Revegetation, (old Section 4 VAC 25-520). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The section eliminates the reference to the Revegetation Guidelines and incorporates the reference to the Mineral Mine Operator's Manual.

4 VAC 25-31-530, Process in Revegetation, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-530 and 570 B). The proposed language was amended for clarity. Part D was amended with language stating actual application rates for mulching as opposed to originally referencing the revegetation guidelines.

4 VAC 25-31-540, Trees and Shrubs, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-540). The proposed language was amended for clarity. It was felt that it was more beneficial to state specific revegetation requirements in the section rather than referencing the revegetation guidelines.

4 VAC 25-31-550, Intensive Agricultural Use, (old Section 4 VAC 25-30-560). The proposed language was amended for clarity. The normal crop yield requirements were changed to match the county as opposed to the Commonwealth.

4 VAC 25-31-550, Informal review, (new section). The section references the Code of Virginia, Section 9-6.14:11 for informal review guidance.

4 VAC 25-31-560, Formal Review, (new section). The section references Section 45.1-194 of the Code of Virginia, Appeals to the Board of Surface Mining Review, and incorporates guidance for formal review.

## Alternatives

*Please describe the specific alternatives to the proposal considered and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action.*

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Alternatives to the regulation were considered as part of the work committee's review. This review included input from representatives of parties that could be potentially affected by the regulation and any written comments. All alternatives have been reviewed to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative to meet the essential purpose of the regulation.

An alternative was considered during the regulatory review work group, that having engineering parameters set out in the regulation (Drainage Handbook information) was more restrictive for operators. The decision was to use the Mineral Mine Operator's Manual as separate guidance from the regulation. This allows increased flexibility and guidance. In addition, the work group felt that it was of more benefit to the public as well as the operators that there be available more than one guidance document that could be referenced to provide engineering assistance when reclaiming mineral mine sites or designing impoundments.

As an alternative to submitting the surety bond when the permit application materials are submitted, the DMME considered that it would be less burdensome to operators if the bond not be submitted until the application is deemed complete. This alternative allows the operator time and flexibility of not having to submit the required bond funds to the Department until the permit is closer to being issued.

An alternative to actual marking of permit boundaries is to consider the use of identifiable natural features when activities reach within 100 feet of the boundary.

As an alternative to submitting renewal fees with reclamation progress reports, the fee will be submitted with the permit renewal.

The requirement to have a notarized annual renewal was removed. This was considered as favorable alternative.

Crop yield requirements applicable to the county as opposed to the entire Commonwealth were considered to allow the requirements to better match local conditions.

The alternative to one size of sediment basin to cover drainage areas was to incorporate flexibility for the operator to correlate the size of the sediment basin with the area it serves.

The new regulation allows alternatives to rip rap to stabilize certain mine areas. The proposed regulation includes the use of gabions and shotcrete to stabilize mine areas.

**Public Comment**

*Please summarize all public comment received during the NOIRA comment period and provide the agency response.*

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No public comments were received.

**Clarity of the Regulation**

*Please provide a statement indicating that the agency, through examination of the regulation and relevant public comments, has determined that the regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected.*

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DMME and has found through examination of the regulation and relevant comment from those involved in the regulatory work group that the regulation is clear and easily understood by those affected.

**Periodic Review**

*Please supply a schedule setting forth when the agency will initiate a review and re-evaluation to determine if the regulation should be continued, amended, or terminated. The specific and measurable regulatory goals should be outlined with this schedule. The review shall take place no later than three years after the proposed regulation is expected to be effective.*

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Three years from the effective date of the final regulation, this regulation will be re-reviewed under the APA and Executive Order 25(98) to determine if the regulation should be continued, amended, or terminated. Specific and measurable goals of the regulation will be outlined in the periodic review schedule.

**Family Impact Statement**

*Please provide an analysis of the proposed regulatory action that assesses the potential impact on the institution of the family and family stability including the extent to which the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.*

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The purpose of the promulgation the proposed regulation, Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining, 4 VAC 25-31, is to replace the Minerals Other Than Coal Surface Mining Regulations, 4 VAC 25-30. This will not have a negative impact on the institution of the family or on family

stability. Ensuring that mined land is properly reclaimed and returned to beneficial use should have a positive effect on the family by protecting the environment in the areas around mine sites.